

Media release

April 2008

2007 and 2008 Grammy Award Winners

'AFRICAN SPIRIT'

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL TOUR

24 APRIL – 25 JUNE 2008

Heralded as the most exciting group to emerge in world music in recent years, the two-time Grammy Award-winning **Soweto Gospel Choir** is returning to Australia to tour its brand new show, **African Spirit**, nationally from 24 April to 25 June 2008.

A sell-out success in August last year when it premiered at the Edinburgh Festival 2007, **African Spirit** celebrates the strength of the human spirit and captures the beauty and passion that is Africa. Through vibrant rhythm, movement and its renowned vocal tapestry, the Choir performs a repertoire that reflects a spiritual journey sung with Soweto Gospel Choir's African Spirit, including the African gospel song 'Seteng Sediba' as well as an extraordinary interpretation of Bob Dylan's 'I'll Remember You'.

'...literally takes the breath away' The Scotsmen

Under the direction of Executive Producer / Director Beverly Bryer and Founding Musical Director David Mulovhedzi, **Soweto Gospel Choir** draws on the best talent from the many churches and communities in and around Soweto, South Africa and performs in six different languages, including English, Xhosa, Zulu and Sotho.

Since its first international performances in Australia in 2003, Soweto **Gospel Choir** has become a worldwide phenomenon performing sell-out concerts at the world's greatest concert halls. In 2008, Soweto Gospel Choir will embark on major tours of the UK, Australia, Germany, Spain, Italy and the Netherlands as well as its fourth tour of the USA.

In its short but spectacular career, **Soweto Gospel Choir** has sung alongside superstars including Bono, Queen, Annie Lennox, Diana Ross, Jimmy Cliff and Celine Dion, shared top billing in Paris with South African legend, Johnny Clegg, was the support act to the Red Hot Chilli Peppers in Germany and recorded with Led Zeppelin's Robert Plant for the Fats Domino tribute album "Going Home".

The choir has sung on numerous occasions for the father of democracy in South Africa, Nelson Mandela, was the guest stars at Oprah's famous 2007 New Years party at Sun City, performed for Former US President Bill Clinton and sang Happy Birthday to its beloved Patron, Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu.

In 2007, **Soweto Gospel Choir** won its first Grammy Award for Best Traditional World Music Album (for its second album 'Blessed') and won its second for the same category in the 2008 Grammy Awards (for its third album 'African Spirit'). Soweto **Gospel Choir** has also won the Best Gospel Choir Award at the 2005 American Gospel Music Awards and the 2003 Australian Helpmann Award for Best Contemporary Concert Presentation.

'Spectacular' New York Times



Apart from unforgettable performances, members of **Soweto Gospel Choir** seek to show gratitude for their own good fortune, by contributing to the lives of Aids Orphans back home in South Africa. In 2004 Soweto **Gospel Choir** set up its own Charity Foundation in association with the established Aids Charity, **Nkosi's Haven**, named after late AIDS activist, 12 year old, Nkosi Johnson. Called Nkosi's HavenVukani (meaning to arise, do something!) Soweto **Gospel Choir**, at the conclusion of each performance, invite audiences to donate with funds going to the many AIDS Orphans Establishments which receive no government or private funding with 100% of the funds collected through concert donations going direct to the charity. To date, **Soweto Gospel Choir** have raised almost US\$1 million from audience donations and last year fed, clothed and housed over 600 orphans.

The Australian **African Spirit** tour will see Soweto **Gospel Choir** perform in QLD (Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton, Maryborough, Caloundra, Gold Coast, Toowoomba, Brisbane), NSW (Albury, Newcastle, Sydney, Revesby, Wollongong, Castle Hill), ACT (Canberra), VIC (Geelong, Frankston, Melbourne), SA (Adelaide) and WA (Mandurah, Perth, Bunbury). The Choir are also performing an already sold-out charity show at Mt Beauty (VIC) with 100% of proceeds going to the local Mt beauty and falls Creek CFA.

Soweto **Gospel Choir's** new album **African Spirit** is in-store from late-April. **Voices from Heaven** and **Blessed** also available at ABC Shops, ABC Centres and Music Retailers.

The **African Spirit** National tour is proudly supported by ABC Local Radio across Australia.

'The choir...brings a slice of heaven every time it performs' Herald Sun

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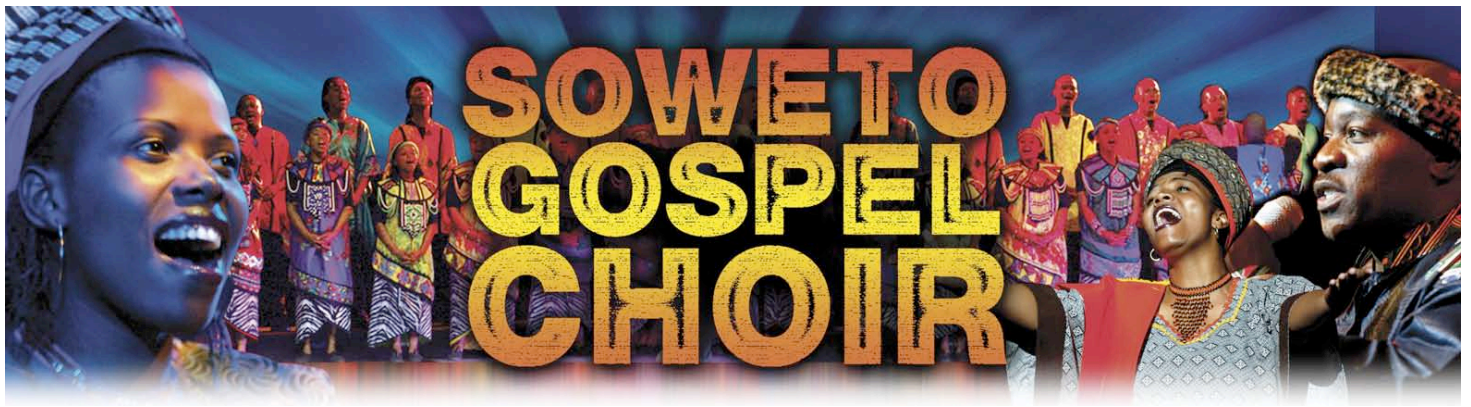
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For images go to www.sowetogospelchoir.com

Tickets on sale now

TOUR INFORMATION (Next page)



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APRIL

24,25	Cairns Civic Theatre	07 4031 9555
26	Townsville Civic Theatre	07 4727 9797
28	Mackay Entertainment Centre	07 4957 1777
29	Rockhampton, Pilbeam Theatre	07 4927 4111

MAY

1	Maryborough, Brolga Theatre	07 4122 6066
2	Caloundra, the Events Centre	07 5491 4240
3	Gold Coast Arts Centre	07 5588 4000
5	Toowoomba, Empire Theatre	1300 655 299
6,7	Brisbane, Concert Hall QPAC	136 246
13	Mt Beauty	SOLD OUT
14	Albury Performing Arts Centre	02 6051 3051
15	Geelong Performing Arts Centre	03 5225 1200
16	Monash, Robert Blackwood Hall	03 9905 1111
17, 18	Melbourne, the Arts Centre, Hamer Hall	1300 136 166
19	Newcastle, Civic Theatre	02 4929 1977
21,22,23,24	Sydney, Theatre Royal	1300 795 012

JUNE

5	Revesby Workers Club	02 9772 2100
6	Wollongong, Regent Theatre	136 100
7	Castle Hill, The Hills Centre	02 9899 3433
8	Sutherland Entertainment Centre	02 9521 8888
10	Canberra, Theatre Centre	02 6275 2700
12	Frankston Arts Centre	03 9784 1060
14	Mandurah PAC, Boardwalk Theatre	08 9550 3900
16,17,18,19	Perth, His Majesty's Theatre	08 9484 1133
24	Bunbury Entertainment Centre	1300 661 272

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